



Ninety – Sixth Legislature – Second Session – 2000  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 1139**

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**Chairperson:** Senator Jim Jensen  
**Committee:** Health and Human Services  
**Date of Hearing:** 02/10/00

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1139 adopts the Nebraska Read, Educate, and Develop Youth Act (READY).

The bill requires the Department of Education, with cooperation from the Health & Human Services-System, to develop a packet of materials entitled: "Learning Begins at Birth". This packet is to be distributed to parents of children born in Nebraska beginning in January, 2001 by the HHS-System. The packet will contain information about topics related to child development, appropriate reading material for parents to read to children, child development charts, activities parents can do with children to stimulate the children's learning processes, information about brain development, how to obtain a library card, childhood diseases and immunizations, the effects of second hand smoke, information about quality child care, etc. The packet may consist of a variety of forms of media: print, videos, audio cassettes, etc.

To assist in underwriting the costs of developing the packet, the Department and the HHS-System may solicit private funding.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Deborah S. Suttle**